Bill No.: SB-994
Title: AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO COVER THE PAY GAP FOR DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS.
Vote Date: 3/19/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/12/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
The Public Safety Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
Officers are being injured in the line of duty, and being forced to retire with minimal benefits. The goal of the bill is to allow a municipality to pay a disabled police officer the difference between the amount the officer would have received as pay if he or she could continue performing duties as an officer and the amount he or she is receiving from various benefits.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Rick Hart, Director, Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association,
Talks about how being forced to retire due to injury can cause financial hardships. By passing the bill it gives municipalities the ability to protect firefighters and police officers protection for their future in the event of an accident. He also asks the bill be amended to include paid firefighters.

Debbie Roselle, Debbie gives her account of her husband getting injured, Phillip was injured by no fault of his own, now gets no benefits. She cites Massachusetts current policies in these matters. Debbie submitted these policies to Senator Duff, who created SB 556 which contains this information.
Stephanie Morton, Stephanie testifies on Norwalk officer Phillip Roselle, who this issue has personally affected. She additionally speaks to how citizens fear becoming police officers in our society today because the unknown is so great. We need to support our law enforcement officials.

David O'Connor, President, The AFSCME, Echoes Debbie Roselle’s testimony of the bill set forth in Massachusetts, and of Officer Phillip Roselle who was shot on duty.

Erin Santangelo, Robert Sweaza, Maryann Mendes, Kristen Sweaza, Testified how Norwalk officer Phillip Roselle, who this issue has personally affected, was accidently shot at a gun range and has not been compensated properly for this accident.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Mike Muszynski, The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, He argues that the bill as drafted would create a system where injured employees would be making more money while on the mend than while healthy and working. The bill would also contradict collective bargaining agreements that were made. Municipalities already offer benefit systems similar to those in the bill. Additionally, the bill lacks specific language to determine who is eligible for the benefits.

Reported by: Assistant Clerk Don Cretella Date: 3/22/19